

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9422
Civ 2M76
pg 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Food Distribution Programs Branch
Washington 25, D. C.

DEC 5 1946

MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLY REPORT - DECEMBER 1946

The December survey of the adequacy of food supplies shows general increases in availability of most foods as compared with the previous month. For the country as a whole supplies of canned fruit cocktail, and canned pears, canned pineapple and pineapple juice, canned tomatoes, frozen strawberries, bacon, canned salmon, tuna, and sardines; margarine, shortening, salad oils, soaps and washing powders, and rice were insufficient to meet general demands. All other items were generally adequate or surplus. A significant proportion of areas reported surpluses of canned grapefruit juice, canned orange juice, canned orange-grapefruit blended juice, fresh oranges, Irish potatoes, and fresh cabbage.

The 192 reports summarized in this analysis are based on information gathered during the first week of December by field representatives of the Production and Marketing Administration at meetings of food advisory committees and by direct communication with the food trades. The number of area reports received from each of the five regions is as follows: northeast 29; midwest 62; south 43; southwest 37; and west 21.

The analysis, as in the past, is divided into three parts. Part I is a narrative summary of the month's developments. Part II sets forth percentage figures for each region, dividing commodities into three groups; generally scarce, generally adequate, and unbalanced. It must be remembered that these percentages are based on the number of areas reporting the situation, rather than on quantitative measures of the supply. Furthermore, each area report is given equal weight in computing regional and U. S. totals. Thus, shortage situations or differences among regions may be exaggerated. Part III shows the food availability situation in 28 selected localities.

The three categories of adequacy of supplies used in this survey are defined as follows:

- Scarce: Supply is less than three-quarters of current demand.
- Adequate: Supply is more than three-quarters of current demand but not sufficiently in excess of demand to cause excessive inventories.
- Surplus: Supplies available in quantities greater than demand. Inventories heavy and rapidly becoming excessive in view of current level of demand.

PART I - ADEQUACY OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Fruits and Vegetables

Canned Fruits: Supplies of canned fruits were more generally meeting demand in early December than during the previous month. In early December, fruit cocktail was scarce in 35 percent of the reporting areas compared with 72 percent the previous month. Canned pears were scarce in 66 percent of the areas this month compared with 87 percent in early November. Peaches were adequate in 87 percent of the reporting areas showing a considerable increase over the previous month in the proportion of areas reporting adequate supplies. Pineapple continued scarce in practically all areas.

Canned Juices: Adequate or surplus supplies of grapefruit juice, orange juice and orange-grapefruit blended juices were indicated for all reporting areas and surplus supplies were reported in about one-half of the areas. Tomato juice was generally adequate. Pineapple juice continued scarce in almost all areas.

Canned Vegetables: Of the four major canned vegetables, only tomatoes were generally scarce for the country as a whole. Canned green beans, corn, and peas were adequate or surplus in 98 percent of the reporting areas during early December, and canned tomatoes were adequate in only 58 percent.

Frozen Foods: During December supplies of frozen fruits and vegetables were more generally meeting the demands than at any time during the past year. Frozen apricots were adequate or surplus in 92 percent of the reporting areas and frozen peaches in 89 percent. Frozen strawberries were scarce in 33 percent of the areas throughout the country in December as compared to 46 percent in early November and 79 percent a year ago. Frozen corn, snap beans, peas, and spinach were adequate in almost all areas. Frozen lima beans were adequate in 76 percent of the areas in December as compared to 60 percent a month earlier.

Dried Foods: The supply of dried prunes was meeting demand in 93 percent and raisins in 82 percent of the reporting areas in December. Dry beans were adequate in 74 percent of the reporting areas for the country as a whole compared with 29 percent in November and 21 percent a year ago.

Fresh Foods: Fresh oranges and Irish potatoes were adequate or surplus in all reporting areas. Significant surpluses of oranges were reported in the northeast and south. Irish potatoes were surplus in 76 percent of the areas in the northeast, 70 percent in the south, 48 percent in the midwest, 46 percent in the southwest, and 33 percent in the west. The supply of cabbage was meeting the demand in practically all areas and surpluses were indicated in 28 percent of the areas in the northeast and 26 percent in the south.

Meats: Meat supplies were more generally meeting demands in December than at any time during the past year. Beef steaks, roasts, hamburger, veal steaks, chops and roasts, pork loin chops and roasts were adequate or surplus in 99 percent of the reporting areas for the country as a whole. Lamb steaks, chops, and roasts, and fresh ham and shoulder were adequate or surplus in 97 percent of the reporting areas. For the country as a whole, supplies of cured ham and shoulder were adequate or surplus in 79 percent of the reporting areas and were generally scarce only in the

west where 52 percent of the areas reported the item as scarce. Salted fat cuts were adequate or surplus in 76 percent of the areas for the country as a whole although this item was scarce in 52 and 37 percent of the areas in the southwest and west respectively. A decrease in the percentage of areas reporting bacon scarce was observed as 48 percent of them reported scarce in December as compared to 91 percent in November. Supplies of cold cuts, bologna, etc., were adequate or surplus in all areas. Ten percent of the areas in the south and west reported surplus supplies of cold cuts and 12 percent reported surplus in the midwest. Supplies of canned meats were not meeting the demand in 30 percent of the areas in December compared with 66 percent a month ago.

Fish: Supplies of fresh and frozen fish were adequate or surplus in 94 percent of the reporting areas for the country as a whole and were generally adequate in all regions. Canned salmon was scarce in practically all areas. Canned tuna and sardines were scarce in 93 and 85 percent of the areas respectively.

Dairy Products: Butter and cheese supplies were adequate or surplus in 96 and 98 percent of the areas respectively in early December. Evaporated milk was adequate or surplus in 87 percent of the areas.

Fats and Oils: Supplies of margarine were scarce in 72 percent of the reporting areas in December as compared to 98 percent in early November and 33 percent a year ago. Seventy-one percent of the areas indicated lard supplies were sufficient to meet demand in December while a month earlier only 11 percent reported adequate or surplus. Shortening and salad oils continued scarce with 80 and 91 percent of the areas respectively, reporting supplies insufficient to meet demand.

Soaps: Soaps and washing powders continued scarce in practically all reporting areas.

Sugar: Some improvement in the availability of sugar was observed during the past month. However, for the country as a whole supplies were meeting ration demand in only 20 percent of the reporting areas, and in the northeast and south 52 and 46 percent of the areas respectively indicated scarce supplies.

Other Items: Shell eggs continued adequate or surplus in about 92 percent of the areas reporting and chicken supplies were adequate or surplus in 98 percent of the areas. Corn meal, bread and wheat flour supplies were generally adequate. Supplies of rice were not sufficient to meet demand in 84 percent of the areas.

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE (B) -- reported in adequate or surplus supply by more than two-thirds of the areas in all five regions. Percentages starred include 10 percent or more "surplus" reports; those double-starred include 25 percent or more. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

Fruits and Vegetables

	<u>U. S.</u>	<u>N. E.</u>	<u>M. W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S. W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned Peaches	87	83	93	79	81	100
Canned Grapefruit Juice	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**
Canned Orange Juice	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**
Canned Orange-Grapefruit Juice	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**
Canned Beans, Green & Wax	98	100	98	100*	100	86
Canned Corn	98	93	100	98	97	100
Canned Peas	98	96	98*	98*	100	95
Canned Tomato Juice	95	93	98	93*	92	100*
Frozen Apricots	92	97	100	85	83	95*
Frozen Peaches	89	97	96	78	77	100*
Frozen Snap Beans	98	100	98	93	100	100
Frozen Cut Corn	97	97	100	88	97	100
Frozen Peas	97	97	100	88	100	100
Frozen Spinach	99	100	100	95	100	100*
Dried Prunes	93	96	90	86	100	95
Fresh Oranges	100*	100*	100	100**	100	100
Irish Potatoes	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**
Fresh Cabbage	99*	100**	100*	100**	97	100

Meats, Fish, Dairy Products,
Fats and Oils

Beef Steaks	99	100	100*	100	97	100*
Beef Roasts	99	100	100*	100	97	100
Hamburger	99	100	100	100	97	100
Veal: Steaks, Chops & Roasts	99	100	98	100	97	100
Lamb: Steaks, Chops & Roasts	97	100	100	98	91	95*
Pork: Loin, Chops & Roasts	99	100	98	100	100	95
Ham & Shoulder, Fresh	97	97	98	98	100	86
Cold Cuts: Bologna, Salami, Etc.	100	100	100*	100*	100	100*
Fish, Fresh & Frozen	94	97	95*	100	86	94
Butter	96	97	97	91	97	100
Cheeses (All Types)	98	97	98	100	94	100
Evaporated Milk	87	97	98	77	69	90

Miscellaneous

Shell Eggs	94	97	97	93	94	86
Chicken	98	100	100	98	94	100
Corn Meal	83	83	79	91	77	84
Wheat Flour	92	100	100	96*	73	100
Bread	92	100	100	95	73	100

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY SCARCE (A) -- reported scarce by at least one-third the areas in all five regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Scarce Supplies

<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>	<u>U. S.</u>	<u>N. E.</u>	<u>N. W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S. W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned Pineapple	98	97	98	98	97	100
Canned Pineapple Juice	97	93	98	98	97	100
<u>Meats, Fish, Fats & Oils</u>						
Pork: Bacon	48	55	44	40	37	81
Canned Salmon	99	97	100	98	100	100
Canned Tuna	93	97	97	81	94	95
Canned Sardines	85	83	89	79	86	90
Margarine	72	36	73	63	46	95
Shortening	20	93	98	47	67	100
Salad Oils	91	97	98	84	75	100
Soap: Bar Laundry	98	97	98	98	97	100
Flakes & Granules	97	97	100	98	89	100
Washing Powders	96	97	100	95	92	95
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Rice	34	86	90	79	69	95

FOODS THAT ARE UNBALANCED (U) -- reported adequate or surplus in more than two-thirds of the areas in one to four regions, scarce in other regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>	<u>U. S.</u>	<u>N. E.</u>	<u>N. W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S. W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned Fruit Cocktail	65	41	70	51	78	86
Canned Pears	34	14	39	26	30	67
Canned Tomatoes	58	31	66	67	68	33
Frozen Strawberries	67	90	75	54	49	68
Frozen Lima Beans	76	90	82	74	54	78
Dried Raisins	82	64	84	81	89	90
Dry Beans	74	71	84	72	62	71
<u>Meat, Fats and Oils</u>						
Pork: Ham & Shoulder, Cured	79	76	97	75	74	48
Salted Fat Cuts	76	76	92	79	63	48
Canned Meats	70	90	85	57	53	50
Lard	71	69	68	33	72	43
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Sugar	20	48	98	54	94	100

PART III -- LOCAL SITUATIONS

polies are indicated as follows: A - Scarce; B - Adequate; C - Surplus; N - No Answer. Letters in parenthesis after commodities refer to groups shown in Part II: (A) - Generally Scarce; (B) - Generally Adequate; (U) - Unbalanced.

Products	: Balti-:	: Bos-:	: Buf-:	: New:	: Phila-:	: Port-:	: Chi-:	: Cleve-:	: De-:	: Mil-:	: St.	: Lan-:	: Char-:
	: more,	: ton,	: falg;	: Comm.	: York;	: delphia;	: land,	: gago;	: land,	: troit;	: kee;	: Omaha,	: ta,
	: Md.	: Mass.	: N.Y.:	: N.	: Y.	: Pa.	: Me.	: Ill.	: Ohio	: Mich.	: Wis.	: Nebr.	: Mo.
	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
ruit Cocktail (U)	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	B	A
eaches (B)	A	B	B	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
ears (U)	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
ineapple (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
rapefruit Juice (B)	C	C	B	C	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	B	B
range Juice (B)	C	C	E	C	E	E	C	C	C	C	E	E	E
range-Grapefruit Juice (B)	C	C	B	C	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	B	B
ineapple Juice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Beans, Green and Wax (B)	B	B	B	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
corn (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peas (E)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Tomatoes (U)	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tomato Juice (B)	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Frozen Apricots (B)	B	B	R	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peaches (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Strawberries (U)	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Beans, Lima (U)	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Beans, Snap (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Corn, Cut (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peas (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Spinach (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dried Prunes (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Raisins (U)	A	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Dry Beans (U)	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Oranges (B)	C	C	B	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Pctatoes, Irish (B)	C	C	C	C	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Cabbage (B)	B	C	C	B	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

[illegible]

[illegible]

